



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

Vol. 1.

WINSTON, N. C., JUNE 30, 1886.

No. 21.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

Tyro Club, Davidson county, which was organized about eight weeks ago, has now a membership of forty-three. The following are the officers: John H. Swicegood, President; vice-President, Alexander Swicegood; Secretary, A. N. Koonts; Treasurer, E. S. Shoaf.

NOTICE TO CLUBS.

We are requested to ask all the officers of clubs in this county to meet at our office in Winston on Monday, the 5th of July, at 2 o'clock p. m. If impracticable for the officers to be present in person, let each club send one or more representatives. Matters of importance to the farming interests are to be considered.

PRACTICAL THOUGHTS.

NO. 3.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—You are making a capital paper, and I am glad to hear it well spoken of every where. It is a very difficult field to occupy, because so many superficial journals have been started and failed; but the reading part of our yeomanry know the ring of a posted, wide-awake paper, and will sustain it.

The planters now have pretty close papers; an unheard of scarcity of money, irregularity of the seasons, &c., &c. But we may blame ourselves for a great deal of the "hard times" of which we so repeatedly complain. We buy too many of those chemical combinations called "fertilizers." Instead of being of permanent advantage to our soil they absorb some of the most important properties of our land, and leave it in need of still greater fertilization the next year. The fact is, we buy too much of many things: Goods, sewing machines, furniture etc. So many persons prefer measuring calico to plowing, the competition makes trade tempting, and we overbuy ourselves. We ought to have more eye to our own self-support, as a State. Our own Mechanics can make as good wagons, bureaus, plows and baby wagons, as the Yankees. We have every facility required for the work. But instead of trying to keep a dollar at home, we sell our timber and ores at a low price, and as one train snorts off, with our incomparable hickory and walnut, and maple, and mountain cherry, another snorts back, loaded with axe handles and bedsteads, which we can make and save the transportation, and the profits. Hundreds and thousands of our people buy seeds at the north, not adapted to our climate, because they are put up in such "beautiful" cases and papers.

North Carolina has the character abroad of a plain, staid, ungluggable community; but we are very rapidly losing our good character. Just think how our people jump at a book written in New York, Chicago or even Philadelphia? And periodicals, "Don't anybody know that no Southern man could make such a paper as the Rural New Yorker?" These whims and fancies, Mr. Editor, ought to be overcome. We have been the willing tool of Yankee "sharpers" long enough. We ought to appreciate our resources and advantages, and patronize our own mechanics. The sun does not look down upon a country that has as near everything and every advantage as North Carolina. And while Georgia and other States are making astonishing strides towards independence, we are traveling at the rate of two miles an hour, if indeed we are moving at all. If your people would dry up their impertunity for Northern men to come down here (to show us how to live) and go to work and help each other along, as the Bible suggests, we might have a healthful, bountiful and happy home.

Truly, etc., J. W. V.

—There will be no encampment of the State Guard this year.

State Items.

—There are four hundred and ten convicts at work upon the Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley Railroad.

—License to retail spirituous liquors at Shoe Heel has been raised from one hundred and fifty dollars to two hundred and forty dollars.—*Lumberton Robesonian*

—Mr. Newton Taylor, of Buncombe county has shown the Asheville Citizen a sample of his oats five feet six inches high, and says he has a large crop of the same kind.

—Mrs. James Weathers has a hen known to be twenty years old. She laid well every year until the present. This year she has laid no eggs, but is fat and seems to enjoy life.—*Franklinton Weekly*.

—The tobacco farmers in Thomasville vicinity are greatly discouraged by their plants frenching. Mr. S. G. Morris reports about 8,000 of his crop in that condition and are worthless.—*Lexington Dispatch*.

—Rufus Lawrence, colored, and James and C. J. Freeman, white, convicted in the Federal Court at Charlotte of passing counterfeit money, were sentenced to two years in the penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$200.

—A new body of ore has been struck in the vein of the Catharine mine, near the city, which it is thought is sufficiently large to keep the mining force at work for nearly three years.—*Charlotte Chronicle*.

—The Old North State gains about seven thousand acres of rich bottom land by the late correction of the line between our own Mecklenburg and the South Carolina county of Lancaster.—*Raleigh News-Observer*.

—Our wheat harvest is over. The yield is very poor. Corn is looking well, but the rainy weather has prevented its being well worked, but the farmers are now trying to catch up with their work. Cotton and tobacco are said to be doing well.—*Chatham Home*.

—The celebrated India, Pointer mad stone is no humbug; it is being applied to a great many cases of dog bites with perfect success. It is owned by Samuel Pointer and George W. Barnett, of Roxboro. This stone is endorsed by the oldest citizens of this county.—*Person County Courier*.

—In Bakersville the Baptists have erected and covered very substantially a new church, and the Methodists have done the same at Forest Home, about six miles from Porcelain.—At the Western Asylum they will begin taking in the 250 additional patients next month.—*Lenoir Topic*.

—In this immediate section crops are not as good as last year, except highland corn, which is probably better than formerly. Cotton has been injured by the cool weather during the first three weeks in June and the heavy rains which have been falling since the last of April. Wheat and oats tolerably fair crops.—*Charlotte Democrat*.

—We have been having too much rain of late for tobacco, while corn is not receiving benefit from it. Intelligent farmers tell us tobacco cannot turn out anything like as well as it would have done but for the excessive rains for the past week or two. The plants have been growing too fast and as a consequence cannot develop and mature as they should.—*Henderson Goldleaf*.

—Mr. T. V. Avent, a prominent farmer of this county, has eighty acres of very fine tobacco. Last year he planted seventy acres and that he has already received \$6,000 from these seventy acres and still has 10,000 lbs. on hand unsold, from which he expects to realize \$2,000 more. So much for good farming.—*Battleboro Headlight*.

—A disease commonly called flux has been raging in Back Creek Township, and is proving quite fatal with children.—*Asheboro Courier*.

—The crop of wheat, an intelligent gentleman from Stoneville tells us, will be a light crop. He thinks that much of it, too, has been injured by the wet weather while saving it. He also says that the depredations of the cut worm has prevented a good stand of tobacco, and owing to the continued rains corn is so much in the grass that it will not make a good crop. Oats are the best he has seen since the war, but there is not a full crop sown. Altogether the prospect is not at all flattering. The wheat, too, in a considerable portion of the county, has been completely destroyed by the hail.—*Dan Valley Echo*.

—The cut worm has been doing bad work throughout this section. The tobacco crop has suffered terribly from its work.—The Scottish Land Company has purchased 30,000 acres of Haywood county land from the Love heirs.—Mr. McGhee, of Haywood, has sold this year, from 40 hives, 1,000 pounds of splendid honey, for 12½ cents per pound.—A son of J. I. Miller, of Highlands, was bitten on the foot by a rattlesnake about a week ago. The wound was well wet with turpentine, and 7 drops given internally. The wound was then kept wet with the juice of the milk weed. It is now healing, and the boy is out at play.—*Asheville Citizen*.

—Travel over the Western road is becoming very heavy—every train from this place towards the west is loaded.—Conflicting accounts are heard concerning the wheat crop. Some say it is medium to good, while others speak less cheerfully.

—It is said that there are over 30 criminals awaiting the rope in the jails of this State, and that most of them will be hung this year.—Mr. J. A. Boyden, Mr. Breathed, and Mr. J. F. Ross, are contemplating going into the canning business here at an early day. Mr. T. N. Smith, a practical canner, will most likely take charge of the works, should these gentlemen conclude to go into the business on a large scale.—*Salisbury Watchman*.

—Robert Robinson, aged 16 years, of Wadesboro, died on Monday of hydrophobia, after twenty-four hours suffering. He was bitten on the left arm by a mad dog two years ago and a few days before his death he was stung by bees on the same arm.

—Mr. J. M. W. Elder, colporteur of the American Bible society, gives the Wilmington Star the following statement of work done by him in Brunswick county: He visited 2,000 families—1,227 white and 262 colored. Of these he found nearly one-fourth without the Bible—297 white and 262 colored families; a total of 559 families found destitute of the word of God.—*Goldboro Messenger*.

CONVENTIONS.

State convention, Raleigh, Aug. 25. The following are the times and places of holding the Congressional and judicial conventions, so far as announced:

Third judicial, Wilson, July 28. Fourth judicial, Smithfield, July 22. Fifth judicial, Durham, Aug. 4, 2 p. m.

Fifth Congressional, Greensboro, July 21.

Sixth judicial, Goldsboro, June 30. Sixth Congressional, Wadesboro, July 31, 11 a. m.

Eighth judicial, Lexington, Aug. 4. Eighth Congressional, Lenoir, Aug. 5.

Ninth judicial, Yadkinville, July 16.

Eleventh judicial, Lincolnton, July 28.

—President Cleveland is making a reputation as a pension bill vetoer. He sent back thirty-five in a bunch to the Senate one day last week.

TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS OF FORSYTH COUNTY.

At the last meeting of the County Board of Education three Teachers' Institutes were ordered to be held this year, viz: One at Winston, to begin on the 6th of July, and continue until the 20th; a second at Kernersville, from August 2d to the 14th; and a third at Lewisville, from August 16th to the 28th. The first will be conducted jointly with the State Normal, which opens at the Graded School in Winston, on the 6th of July, and continues till the 23d of the month. Our Institute, however, will be limited to a term of ten days, and has been placed under the control of Prof. Tomlinson, who has courteously consented to assume the superintendence of it by request of the County Board; the next, viz: that at Kernersville, will be under the control of the County Superintendent, assisted by Prof. Ray, of that place; the third and last one, at Lewisville, will also be under the direction of the County Superintendent, who will procure such help for the occasion as he can then obtain. By reference to sec. 2,567 of the Common School Law, you will see that all the teachers, both white and colored, are "required" to attend Institutes. Now, although a teacher may not attend all these Institutes, (though at liberty to do so), it is plainly his duty to attend at least one, and he may select that which is most convenient for him, thus complying with the law. Arrangements have been made for holding the Institute for the white teachers in the Graded School building and for the colored teachers in the Court House, during the Institute at Winston. There can be no doubt that the Institute at Winston will afford to teachers the finest opportunities for improvement. The exercises there being in charge of Prof. Tomlinson, (whose reputation alone is a sufficient guarantee for good work), assisted by other eminent instructors as he will be, cannot fail to come up to all that can be asked for in this line. The teachers are, therefore, all of them, earnestly requested and advised to attend there and avail themselves of the freely-offered benefits of both Normal and Institute. Neither of the other Institutes can reasonably be expected to offer equal attractions. It is for this reason the Superintendent so urgently calls upon you, one and all, to come up and derive all the advantage you can from this liberality of the State to your profession.

I will also add, for the information of all concerned, that I shall be at the Court House in Winston on the 8th, 9th and 10th of July next, for the purpose of examining applicants for teachers' certificates.

A. I. BURNER, Co. Supt.

MISSIONARY WORK IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Sunday morning last the Rev. Dr. Calvin H. Wiley, agent of the American Bible Society for North and South Carolina, occupied the pulpit of the First Presbyterian church. After a very interesting sermon he gave some astounding figures as to the work of the Society in these two States. The Society has determined on the stupendous work of visiting every house in the United States. In North and South Carolina 150 counties have been systematically and thoroughly canvassed. In North Carolina 210,000 visits have been made and 27,000 destitute families have been supplied with the word of God. Within the past eight years fifty-seven colporteurs, selected from all the different churches, have been engaged and paid by the society to work in this State.—*Raleigh News*.

—The bill raising the salaries of United States District Judges from \$2,500 to \$5,000 a year has passed the United States Senate by a vote of 32 yeas to 20 nays.

ROUGH ON THE FARMER.

CEDAR GROVE, June 28, '86. MR. EDITOR.—If you will allow me a little space I will offer a few random thoughts. To say that every farmer in this vicinity is down with the blues would not half express the situation. Some have been forced to plow up their tobacco ground and plant in corn, being unable to get a stand of tobacco.

The wheat crop is not exceeding a half yield.

Oats are falling down on good ground, owing to so much rain.

Corn is drowned out and choked to death by the grass.

We are still setting tobacco; no lack for season. Some have set the same ground, (I think I am safe in saying) a dozen times.

Taking all in all it is looking gloomy in this neighborhood just now, but if the sun would shine just one week without any rain it would be a sight to see the farmer laugh and hear him tell how much corn he is going to raise and how big tobacco leaves he can show.

Tell all the farmers to not forget that convention in August.

J. M. J.

A CURE FOR THE MOST DANGEROUS WOUNDS.

An intelligent and trustworthy correspondent has sent us the following: The smoke of woolen rags is a cure for the most dangerous wounds. A lady of my acquaintance ran a machine needle through her finger. She could not be released till the machine was taken to pieces. The needle had broken into her finger in three pieces, one of which was bent almost double. After repeated trials the pieces were extracted by pincers, but they were very strongly imbedded. The pain reached to the shoulder, and there was every danger of lockjaw. The woolen rags were put over the coals, and she held her finger over the smoke, and in a very short time all the pain was gone and it never returned, though it was some little time before the finger healed. This is but one of the many instances of such cure, some of them taking place several days from the time of the wound. Let woolen rags be kept sacredly and always at hand for wounds. The smoke and stench will fill the house, perhaps, but that is a trifle when the alternative is lockjaw or even a long, painful sequel to a wound. Another instance was the wound made by an enraged cat, which tore the flesh from the wrist to the elbow and bit through the fleshy part of the hand. One ministrator of the smoke extracted all the pain, which had been frightful.—*Boston Transcript*.

AGES OF ANIMALS.

From critical observations, the following is stated to be the ages of animals: Camels live from forty to fifty years; horses average twenty-five to thirty; oxen about twenty; sheep eight to nine, and dogs from twelve to fourteen. Concerning the ages attained by non-domestic animals, only a few isolated facts are known. The East Indians believe that the life period of elephants is about 300 years—instances being recorded of these animals having lived 130 years in confinement, after capture at an unknown age. Whales are estimated to reach the age of 400 years. Some reptiles are very long lived, an instance being furnished by a tortoise which was confined in 1638 and existed until 1753, when it perished by accident. Birds sometimes attain a great age, the eagle and the swan having been known to reach 100. The longevity of fishes is often remarkable—carp having been known to reach 200, common river trout fifty years, and the pile ninety years. Gessner, a Swiss naturalist, relates that a pike caught in 1497 bore a ring recording the capture of the same fish 267 years before.